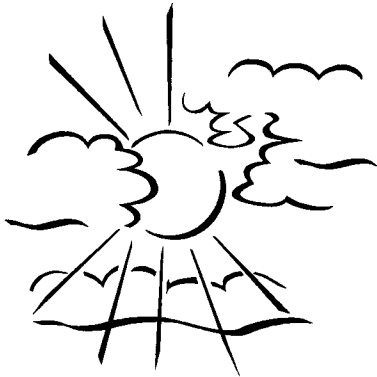


***Department  
of  
Human  
Services***

Prepared by the  
DHS Office of  
Communications  
(517) 373-7394



\*Important story at this spot

# **Articles in Today's Clips**

## **Friday, April 28, 2006**

(Be sure to maximize your screen to read your clips)

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Michigan Report

April 27, 2006

## **AUDIT: CHILD SUPPORT SOFTWARE RISKED PRIVACY OF CLIENTS**

The Departments of Human Services and Information Technology for years put “numerous” clients in the child support system at risk of having their private and sensitive information released to the wrong people, Auditor General Thomas McTavish said in an audit released on Thursday.

DHS said it has taken steps to protect the sensitive material.

The audit looked at case records and interviewed employees from January 2000 through October 2005 in effort to gauge the effectiveness of the Michigan Child Support Enforcement System, the software used by the departments to manage the state’s child support caseload.

The auditors found that DHS had not removed confidential information from all case files, as required by law, from the on-line MCSES system or hard copy documentation.

“We identified numerous instances in which confidential and sensitive child support client information was displayed throughout hard copy and on-line system documentation,” the audit said. It added that examples of this information include social security numbers; bank account information and driver’s license numbers.

DHS, in its response, said it has erased the sensitive material from the on-line system and has destroyed hard copies.

It also said that policy has been to remove the information when entering cases into the system, and any residual information was left over from “some point in the past.”

The audit noted four other technical changes the agencies can make to ensure that the information on the system is correct and make certain that only authorized users have access to the system.

The agencies agreed to fix all of the reported findings, adding that a majority of the most pressing issues with the MCSES system were already flagged and will be fixed by October 2007 as part of a two-year improvement project.

## **Child Support System 'Moderately Effective'**

The Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Department of Information Technology (DIT) are moderately effective at maintaining the state's child support system, the Auditor General reported today.

The Child Support Enforcement System (MiCSES) is a statewide information system used by the DHS to track child support activities such as program initiation, parental location, paternity records, court documents, and child support collection and distribution.

The Auditor General cited five findings the DHS agreed to comply with to make the MiCSES more effective and secure. The audit was conducted March-October 2005 and reviewed files from January 2000 to October 2005.

The audit stated that the system left confidential information such as social security numbers of custodial and non-custodial parents and children both online and on hard copy documents. The system also didn't blackout bank account information, driver's license numbers and arrearage amounts.

After being audited, the DHS removed the secure information that was displayed online and destroyed any hard copies with the information on it.

The DHS also agreed to make sure that only qualified users had access to the system — another problem cited in the audit — and the department agreed to make technical access control improvements for users.

The Auditor General also asked the DHS to eliminate duplicate cases, stating that duplicates could interfere with child support distribution to custodial parents. The DHS agreed.

The last finding stated that the DHS didn't work well with other databases that were used by users who also needed to use MiCSES. The DHS agreed to work on making the program more agreeable to other program users.

MiCSES was developed in 2001 and cost \$203.4 million to start.

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## Evening

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Thursday, April 27, 2006

## Woman arraigned in baby's death

BY RAY KISONAS

rayk@monroenews.com

Applause erupted in a packed courtroom after a Monroe County judge on Wednesday denied bond for a woman who has been accused of beating a baby to death.

Sonya Moussaed, dressed in a black-and-white-striped jail uniform, answered several questions from First District Judge Jack Vitale, who formally charged her with open murder. After brief arguments from prosecutors and the defense attorney regarding bail, Judge Vitale denied bond.

Ms. Moussaed, 27, of 812 Hubble St. was remanded to the Monroe County jail.

The judge asked Ms. Moussaed questions regarding her employment status, residency and sources of income. She answered clearly, mostly by "yes" and "no." She told the judge she works part time for an automotive company in Toledo and has lived in Monroe for a number of years.

The courtroom was filled with supporters of Gracie A. Simmons, the 17-month-old baby who was beaten to death last week. Many friends and family members wore dog tags with the child's image on them.



Many friends and family members were dogged with the child's immediate.

Holly Preston, the baby's mother, was comforted by her mother and brother during the proceedings.

Also in court were family members of Ms. Moussaed, including her parents and at least one brother. The father did approach the bench and told the judge that he would look after his daughter and make sure she would appear in court if bond was issued.

"If your daughter posts bond are you willing to oversee the conditions?" Judge Vitale asked John Moussaed, who lives in Temperance.

"Yes, your honor," he replied.

However, Monroe County Prosecutor William P. Nichols said in court that the defendant has a history of marijuana convictions and once failed to

show up for a possession of marijuana sentencing in 2004. He cited those incidents as reasonable belief that Ms. Moussaed

Holly Preston, the mother of 17-month-old Gracie J. Simmons, is comforted by her mother as she looks at a photo of Gracie during Wednesday's arraignment for Sonya Moussaed (left), who is accused of killing the child.

would leave the area.

Her attorney, Lawrence Coogan of Monroe, argued that she was not a flight risk and would appear for the next court date. But the judge said he was concerned with the past incidents and denied bond.

"I certainly am concerned about substance abuse," Judge Vitale said.

Mr. Nichols also discussed the two past incidents when Gracie was

injured that allegedly involved Ms. Moussaed, who lived at the Hubble St. home with the baby's father, Joseph Simmons. The past incidents involved bruising to the baby's collar bone and face and a police report was filed. In the other case, the baby's feet were burned by hot water. The police were not notified in that situation and arrests were not made in either

See **BABY**, Page 15A

## Baby (cont.)

incident.

The Department of Human Services was notified in the hot water case. Monroe County DHS Director Terry Beurer said he could not discuss specific cases. However, he did say that about one-third of the cases that come to his department are referred to police.

"Some cases demand that we report them to the police," Mr. Beurer said. "Not every case goes to law enforcement."

Mr. Beurer said his agency works closely with police and the prosecutor's office.

"We're very fortunate in Monroe County to have that relationship," he said. "It's tremendous."

This morning Mr. Coogan, the attorney representing Ms. Moussaed, said that he has had a difficult time preparing his defense because he does not have any medical records, X-rays or other

information.

"There has been no evidence presented to us," Mr. Coogan said. "I would like to have the facts. I've learned more about the case from the media."

Mr. Nichols said the file has been available to Mr. Coogan.

"He knows where to get it," he said. "He can pick it up today."

Mr. Coogan also said his client denies involvement in the baby's death.

"She's grieving, too," he said. "She has taken care of the baby since birth."

The Preston family has chosen not to comment on the situation at this time. Monroe police detectives Brett Ansel and Bryan Gee said they are confident after their investigation that the right person is in jail.

Ms. Moussaed is scheduled to appear in court again on May 8 and 9 before District Judge Terrence Bronson.

# **Officials await fate of infant Murder charges possible if 1-month-old dies**

Friday, April 28, 2006

By Scott Hagen  
shagen@citpat.com -- 768-4929

The 4-week-old baby would not stop crying. The mother's boyfriend picked her up and shook her, police and prosecutors said. She stopped crying.

The boyfriend, 25, is expected to be charged today in Jackson County District Court with first-degree child abuse for shaking his girlfriend's baby and inflicting head trauma on her. The little girl is suffering from blood on her brain and injuries consistent with shaken-baby syndrome, Jackson police said.

She is being kept alive by life support and doctors at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital of Ann Arbor are awaiting a follow-up test Saturday morning to determine the next medical step, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors said they will charge the boyfriend with murder, if and when the child is declared dead.

"We don't want to be accused of jumping the gun," Chief Assistant Prosecutor Mark Blumer said. "We're going to wait until the hospital is prepared to declare her officially dead. In the meantime, we're prepared to go forward with the charges of first-degree child abuse."

The Citizen Patriot generally does not print the names of suspects unless formal charges have been filed, nor does it generally identify living children who are alleged victims of child abuse.

Police detectives arrested the man Wednesday after a second interview with him. He told police the baby was crying early that morning and that he shook her until she stopped, prosecutors said. Police do not suspect involvement by the 21-year-old mother, who said she was sleeping at the time.

The boyfriend originally told police the baby suffered the injuries from rolling around in the crib, police said. Jackson Police Detectives Dean Schuette Jr. and Brett Stiles questioned him later Wednesday at Mott. Based on the interview, they arrested him.

The sad news about the baby dominated discussions at the Police Department and the courthouse.

"Tragedies like this affect everyone who's touched by them, and that includes law enforcement and prosecutors who have to deal with the aftermath," Blumer said. "Cases like this do affect you."

## **Infant Found Dead In Yard On East Side**

### ***Police Say Father Took Baby From Home***

POSTED: 9:54 am EDT April 28, 2006

**DETROIT --** A 9-month-old boy was found dead in a neighborhood on Detroit's east side Friday morning.

A couple argued inside a house on Milner Street early Friday morning, Local 4 reported. The argument spilled outside and furniture was tossed outside, the station reported. The man then left the house with the infant, according to police. The mother called police.

Police arrived a short time later, and found the man cutting himself with a knife along nearby Gratiot Avenue, the station reported. Police were able to take the knife from the man, but the infant was not with him.

Officers searched the neighborhood and located the infant's body about two blocks away in a yard on Clarion Street, Local 4 reported.

Police have not released details of what happened to the infant.

The father was being treated for his knife wounds at a hospital.

The family's name was not released.

Police continue to investigate.

Published April 28, 2006

## **Inmate: Man dropped, hit child**

# **Defense attorney questions report of jail confession**

By Susan Vela  
Lansing State Journal

*A jail inmate testified Thursday that Samuel Courtland confessed to him he was carrying his girlfriend's 2-year-old baby when the child fell out of his arms and hit the back of his head.*

*Cedric Taylor, awaiting sentencing in Ingham County Jail on felony drug and finance charges, also testified that Courtland said he started smacking Jalyn Daniel after the child fell.*

*"He said that the baby was crying," Taylor said.*

Taylor testified in the preliminary hearing for Courtland, 31, and Jalyn's mother, Cynthia Daniel, 30. Courtland and Daniel, his former live-in girlfriend, face charges of open murder and child abuse in Jalyn's death. They could face life in prison without parole if convicted.

During cross-examination, Courtland's attorney Peter Samouris, questioned Taylor's credibility. More testimony on May 5 could determine if their case will go to trial.

On Thursday, Lansing Police Officer Jonathan LaCross testified he was dispatched shortly before 6 p.m. May 14, 2005, to Jalyn's residence, 6217 Grovenburg Road, and found the child apparently not breathing in the back of a sport utility vehicle.

LaCross, who tried to resuscitate the child, testified Daniel said Jalyn had been having upper respiratory problems



and had been injured in a scooter accident earlier in the day.

An ambulance arrived and took Jalyn to Ingham Regional Medical Center, where emergency room doctors also unsuccessfully tried to revive him.

When Jalyn was pronounced dead there, "it changed from a medical situation to a possible homicide," LaCross testified.

Jalyn's official cause of death was pneumonia. Prosecutors contend abuse factored into the child's death.

During a break in testimony, Daniel's 8-year-old son entered the courtroom with his father,

Stephen Johnson. Both the child and his mother began crying. "I love you," Daniel cried from the other side of the courtroom. She has two children who have been staying with their fathers.

Contact Susan Vela at 702-4248 or [svela@lsj.com](mailto:svela@lsj.com).

# Family devastated by alleged assault

Friday, April 28, 2006

By Scott Hagen

shagen@citpat.com -- 768-4929

Face buried in his hands as he sobbed, the stepfather sat in the courtroom Thursday as a man accused of sexually assaulting a 5-year-old girl appeared by video to face formal charges.

The girl's stepfather said he returned home with his wife and a friend Tuesday morning to find Miles Wallace-Sterner, 22, on the couch with the girl.

His shirt was unbuttoned and a blanket covered them both. The girl was screaming, he said. Wallace-Sterner, the boyfriend of the girl's babysitter, jumped up and ran from the house.

On Thursday, Magistrate Fred Bishop set a \$50,000 bond and barred Wallace-Sterner from having contact with the alleged victim or anyone younger than 16, should he post bail.

A preliminary exam for Wallace-Sterner, who is charged with first-degree criminal sexual conduct, is scheduled for May 8 in District Court. If convicted, the maximum penalty is life in prison.

"From what I know of him he's a really good guy," said Karlean Peavy, the 20-year-old babysitter who said she dated Wallace-Sterner off and on for the past year.

"I've known him for a long time and it just shocked me when all this came up. I didn't know what was going on until after it happened."

Wallace-Sterner -- who fidgeted with his white shoes and crossed his arms throughout the arraignment -- spoke twice. He told Bishop he wanted someone subpoenaed to the courthouse and said he requested an attorney when police were questioning him.

Bishop told him to address the issues with his court-appointed attorney.

Outside the courtroom, the stepfather continued to cry. The Citizen Patriot is not printing his name because it does not identify alleged victims of child abuse, or their family members in some cases.

"This destroyed us. This destroyed our family," he said. Two other children, an 8-year-old boy and a 4-year-old girl, live in the Biddle Street house.

"She's got that look like she's hurt and I don't know what to tell her. ! I want justice."

WAYNE COUNTY

# State to investigate Livonia therapist in child-sex case

*April 28, 2006*

**BY ZLATI MEYER**  
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

The Michigan Department of Community Health announced Thursday that it will investigate Livonia child psychologist Charles Bruce Fraelich, who was arrested last week, accused of arranging sex with an 11-year-old girl whose mother he met online. Fraelich was arrested April 20 in Sandy Springs, Ga., department spokesman T.J. Bucholz said Thursday.

"It doesn't look like there's any disciplinary action or open complaints," he said of the 58-year-old Ann Arbor man.

Fraelich was issued a license in 1991, a process that would have included a credential review and criminal background check, according to Bucholz. It was scheduled for renewal in August.

The psychologist was nabbed in an FBI sting in near Atlanta and is being held without bond. He was arraigned April 21.

"This case disturbingly illustrates the pervasive problem of child predators today," U.S. Attorney David Nahmiassaid in a news release. "Where even a child psychologist preys on children using the Internet, we must all take extra care in protecting our young ones." Fraelich could not be reached for comment.

According to Stephen Emmett, spokesman for the FBI's Atlanta field office, this was the Safe Child Task Force's ninth arrest this year and 124th arrest since the project, made up of federal and local law-enforcement agencies, began in 2000.

Emmett also said the task force encountered others traveling from out-of-state -- and in some cases outside the country -- to have sex with minors.

# Jury acquits teacher of sex charge

Friday, April 28, 2006

By TOM GILCHRIST  
BAY CITY TIMES WRITER

SANDUSKY - Cass City High School music teacher Douglas P. Burtch Jr. won the battle for his freedom in a Sanilac County courtroom on Thursday, but tonight he'll fight to keep his job.

A jury took only about 30 minutes to acquit Burtch of two counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct involving a female student in 2003.

Had jurors convicted him of either charge, the Standish native would have faced up to 15 years in prison.

"I'm very pleased, happy that the truth has prevailed and anxious to go to work," said Burtch, 29, hugging supporters who erupted in a chorus of cheers following the verdict.

Burtch, credited with resurrecting a dying music program at Cass City High School, may not get his wish.

Cass City Public School District Superintendent Ronald Wilson has recommended the district Board of Education not renew Burtch's contract for a fourth school year.

The school board meets at 7 p.m. tonight at the Cass City High School cafeteria to decide whether to keep Burtch as a teacher. Burtch said he will exercise his right to have the discussion held in public, not behind closed doors.

While dozens of spectators in Sanilac County Circuit Court applauded Wednesday's verdict - with some shedding tears of joy - not everyone joined the celebration.

"I feel sorry for the next young girl," said the mother of the woman who claimed Burtch had sexual intercourse with her in Sanilac County when the girl was a 17-year-old student and Burtch was her 26-year-old teacher.

The mother declined further comment as she left the courthouse immediately after the jury's decision.

Michigan law makes it a crime for a teacher to engage in sex with a student under age 18.

Burtch, suspended with pay since July 2005 by Cass City school-district leaders, still faces eight counts of criminal sexual conduct with a 17-year-old female Cass City High School student in Tuscola County.

That woman, now 19, testified for the prosecution at this week's trial in Sanilac County.

But Burtch's lawyer, Bad Axe attorney Walter J. Salens Jr., questioned the credibility of both accusers in his closing argument.

The alleged victim in the Tuscola County case told police Burtch tried to have sexual intercourse with her, but changed the story for other listeners, according to Salens.

"When she's talking to somebody in authority, yes, it happened. When she's talking to her friends, no it didn't happen," Salens said.

Regarding the claims of the alleged victim in Sanilac County, Salens urged jurors to consider the statements of the woman's onetime friend, 19-year-old Sarah J. Zawilinski, who testified Thursday.

Zawilinski, Salens said, spoke with the alleged victim in July 2005 and the woman said she had engaged in intercourse with Burtch.

In a later conversation Zawilinski said she had with the woman, in November 2005, the accuser "stated that she lied, that she lied to the police, that she lied to the school, that nothing ever happened," Salens told the jury.

But Sanilac County Prosecutor James V. Young called the accuser in the Sanilac County case "a very fine young lady who came into this courtroom to subject herself to these proceedings."

Young urged the jury to consider cell-phone records showing Burtch called the teenage student in the Sanilac County case 292 times from February through December 2004.

The girl turned 18 on March 4, 2004.

Young said cell-phone records from the woman's Feb. 4, 2004, billing statement showed she called Burtch for a total of 327 minutes - in dialed calls to him or conversations with him.

"If this wasn't a romantic relationship, what should have been happening with these phone calls heading up to her (18th) birthday?" Young asked the jury.

Daniel F. Stomber Sr. of Sanilac County's Evergreen Township, who attended part of the trial, said Burtch's vocal group of supporters have intimidated both female accusers.

"The girls are telling the truth," Stomber said. "The bad thing about it is (the accuser in the Sanilac County case) was born and raised around Cass City, and they've known this Burtch guy for a year or two.

"He's the Pied Piper - that's what I call him. And the school's still paying him. A lot of people are upset about that."

- Tom Gilchrist covers regional news for The Times. He can be reached at 894-9649 or by e-mail at [tgilchrist@bc-times.com](mailto:tgilchrist@bc-times.com).

## **STRANGER DANGER**

Web-posted Apr 28, 2006

# **Police want parents to warn their children about abduction attempts**

By KORIE WILKINS  
Of The Oakland Press

Law enforcement officers in three Oakland County communities are asking for the public's help in finding men responsible for trying to either abduct or molest young girls.

While officials in the three communities say the incidents do not seem related, each said the reports were disturbing. And with warmer weather just around the corner - meaning more children will be outside - law enforcement officials are asking parents to have a talk with their children about staying safe.

"Parents should remind their children to be alert and not to talk to strangers," said Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard. "We can't stress that enough."

So far, there have been instances of adults acting inappropriately or suspiciously around children in Commerce Township, Rochester Hills and Hazel Park since March. In Commerce Township, a 13-year-old girl was playing hide-and-seek with some friends in a wooded area of Dodge Park No. 5 on April 20 when she was approached by a man, who grabbed her arm. The girl hit the man in the nose and ran away.

The man is described as white and heavy-set. He's in his mid- to late-30s and is about 5-foot-10. The man has dark hair and was wearing jeans, a black zippered sweatshirt, a black baseball cap and sunglasses.

In Hazel Park, police are looking for a man who exposed himself to one girl and groped another. The incidents happened on April 2 and April 18 about a mile apart. In the first incident - which happened at John R and Chrysler - two girls were walking when a man drove up and asked for directions. When one of the girls approached his car, he grabbed her chest. In the other incident - which happened at Vassar and Otis - the man also asked for directions and then exposed himself.

Detective Lt. Michael Kolp said police believe the same man is responsible for both crimes. The suspect is a white man in his early to mid-20s and thin, with a Celtic tattoo that covers his left arm from wrist to shoulder. Police believe he was driving a maroon minivan.

Police are hoping a collaborative effort by victims and witnesses to develop a suspect sketch, released Thursday, will help investigators identify the person responsible for the attacks.

"We're hoping to get more leads with the public's help," Kolp said.

A third female on Wednesday reported a man attacked her at Tucker and Tawas in Hazel Park while she was walking to work.

In that incident, an 18-yearold Sterling Heights woman said she was attacked shortly before 4 p.m. Wednesday while walking from Hazel Park High School to work on Dequindre.

The victim said a man confronted her while in a gray van asking for directions to Woodward Heights. The victim said she directed the man, who left his vehicle pointing north as if confirming her directions, she told police.

The suspect then approached her, put both arms around her and attempted to put her in the van, she told police. As the victim kicked him and screamed, the man threw her to the ground and got on top of her, she reported. She again kicked him and escaped, she told police. A woman told police she was on her porch on that corner between 3:05-4:42 p.m. and didn't see or hear any attack.

The victim told police the man was white, in his 40s, about 5-6, 135 pounds, with brown eyes, gray hair, a pock-marked face, and was wearing a red shirt. He drove a full size gray van with no windows, she told police.

Except for the similarity of the man asking for directions, Kolp said the description of the suspect in the latest incident doesn't appear to match the person suspected in the first two attacks.

In another incident, in Rochester Hills, three girls were approached by a man two separate times. The incidents happened within a mile of each other.

The first was Monday at about 3:30 p.m. when two sisters, 9 and 12, were approached by the man as they rode bicycles on Cal near Gerald. The man, who was in a car, tried to get the girls to come over but they did not. He then drove away.

A description of the man fit a similar incident on March 7 when an 11-year-old girl walking home from Reuther Middle School on Harrod Street near Culbertson said she was approached by a man who offered her \$100 to talk to him. She went home and called police.

The man is described as white and in his 30s or 40s. He has a goatee and very short brown hair. He could also be balding. He was driving a large, older red sedan.



None of the children in any of the situations was harmed. The motives behind the incidents remain unclear. But Bouchard and others say adults should not be approaching children for directions and children should never approach someone they don't know, even if they have seen the person around the neighborhood.

Parents should also err on the side of caution and call authorities if their child is approached by a stranger.

"We'd rather check up on 100 false reports than miss a real one," Bouchard said.

Anyone with information on these incidents should call (888) TURN-1-IN or the Hazel Park Police Department at (248) 546-0602.

[ From the Lansing State Journal ]

## **House passes bills on meth lab cleanup**

Legislation would help in eliminating drug's aftereffects

Published April 28, 2006

By Tim Martin  
Associated Press

The state House unanimously passed legislation Thursday aimed at helping communities deal with the aftereffects of methamphetamine labs.

The multi-bill package primarily affects the cleanup of sites contaminated by meth production and investigation into cases where children have been exposed to meth labs or their fumes.

Other bills deal with tracking the number and location of methamphetamine-related offenses to get a better handle on the problem in Michigan. The bills passed Thursday now head to the Senate, which already has passed some methamphetamine legislation of its own.

Police shut down at least 250 meth labs in Michigan last year. Ten years ago, police investigated only six.

The highly addictive drug can be made with common household products, including cold medicine. It's a growing problem in many parts of Michigan and in several other states.

The state already has a new law that allows only consumers 18 and older to buy Sudafed, Claritin-D and other nonprescription products containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, the key ingredient used to "cook" methamphetamine. Adult customers are limited to buying two packages or no more than 48 tablets per visit and must show photo ID.

The bills passed Thursday would require police to notify the state's Department of Community Health after a drug lab bust to determine if the site is contaminated.

Meth fumes can lodge in walls, bedding and other materials and cause health problems long after the "cooking" of the drug has stopped.

The Department of Community Health would be required to create guidelines to assist cleanup efforts. Potential home buyers would be able to research locations on a Web site to determine if a home is a former meth lab.

# Food bank drive faces greater need

Friday, April 28, 2006

BY TOM TOLEN

Ann Arbor News Staff Reporter

Shoppers at area groceries might be greeted by Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts on the next two Saturdays as organizers of the fourth annual Fill the Gazebo food drive strive to beat last year's collection for the Gleaners Community Food Bank of Livingston County.

The scouts will be distributing food drive donation bags. Event chairman and Brighton Mayor Steve Monet said he hopes they'll help the drive to surpass the 7.5 tons of food donated in 2005.

Gleaners officials have said the need for donations of food and other staples is greater than ever this year because the Michigan economy is so poor.

"There have been a lot of empty shelves at the Shared Harvest Food Pantry this year," Gleaners representative Tania Maples told the Brighton City Council recently. "Each agency is seeing a 30-40 percent increase in assistance over last year."

Plus, donations tend to "drop off considerably" during the summer, Maples said, even though there is a greater need because children are out of school.

Food bank manager Erika Karfonta told the council last week that she is seeing people at the food bank who "make \$9 an hour (but) need to make \$15 an hour to be able to live in Livingston County." And a Gleaner survey last year revealed that children and seniors comprise 59 percent of those who go hungry in the county.

So on Saturday Boy Scouts will be in front of VGs in Brighton distributing orange mesh bags that shoppers can fill with nonperishable food items and return the following Saturday, May 6, the day of the Fill the Gazebo campaign.

Also on May 6, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will greet customers entering Kroger, VGs and Taorello's in Brighton with bags that will contain a wish list of food items that participating customers can buy and then drop off in front of the store on their way out.

Motorists also can drop off bags of donated food and personal care items at the Mill Pond in downtown Brighton on May 6. Volunteers will be there collecting the donations and loading them onto trucks for distribution. A second location, on State Street in downtown Howell, has been added this year.

The donation bags also can be picked up during office hours at the Brighton Department of Public Services office on South Third Street, the food bank on Sterling Drive off Dorr Road in Genoa Township, the Michigan Group office or Realtors association office, both on Grand River Avenue in Genoa Township, or by e-mailing Karfonta at [ekarfonta@gcfb.org](mailto:ekarfonta@gcfb.org).

The food drive is co-sponsored by the Gleaners, the Livingston County Association of Realtors, the Greater Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce and the city of Brighton. Donated items will go to 29 local service agencies.

Monet suggests parents bring their children when they drop off donated items. "Take your kids and teach them a lesson, make them realize community service is very valuable," he said.

Tom Tolen can be reached at [ttolen@livingstoncommunitynews.com](mailto:ttolen@livingstoncommunitynews.com) or at 810-844-2009.

# **Pantries are facing largest demand in assistance**

## **FEMA increases funding to county to \$32,083 total**

Friday, April 28, 2006

BY LISA CAROLIN  
Ann Arbor News Staff Reporter

The need for financial assistance is on the rise in Livingston County, and local food pantries are experiencing the greatest demand.

"There's an escalating need in this county for assistance and an unprecedented number of people requesting food in this county at various pantries," said Nancy Rosso, executive director of the Livingston County United Way. "The last time we went through a recession, Livingston County didn't feel the effects like it is now."

The good news is that the Federal Emergency Management Agency, increased its funding to the county this year, to \$32,083, an increase of \$8,912 over the 2005 contribution.

"This supplements already existing programs, and it hopefully helps so that they won't have to turn away anybody," Rosso said.

The United Way determined the distribution of the money based on federal guidelines, and a local board made up of human service organizations and community representatives met in March to do the work. The local Salvation Army is receiving \$15,000 for rent and mortgage assistance; the Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency gets \$6,000 for rent assistance; LACASA gets \$3,500 for shelter assistance; the Gleaners Community Food Bank receives \$5,583 for food; and the Knights of Columbus Council #2659 in Howell gets \$2,000 for its food pantry.

Erica Karfonta, general manager of the Gleaners Community Food Bank for Livingston County said there is a 30-40 percent increase in the requests for food from the pantries in this county.

"There is a growing population of the working poor in Livingston County, and the cost of living here is going up," Karfonta said. "The average person earning \$9-\$12 an hour can't get by. After rent or mortgage, people use money for utilities and medical costs. The first thing they cut back on is food."

Karfonta said that the majority of people she knows in her age bracket - the late twenties - who live in Livingston County are using the food pantries. "They all graduated from high school and some graduated from college, but you have to make at least \$15 an hour in Livingston County to be able to afford rent," she said.

"There is no low-income housing. Many people move out of the county and don't even try to work here."

Lisa Carolin can be reached at [lcarolin@livingstoncommunitynews.com](mailto:lcarolin@livingstoncommunitynews.com) or at 810-844-2010.

4/28/2006 11:00:00 AM

## **Sturgis boasts state's longest- running event to help feed the hungry**

By Marcie Westover  
Sturgis Journal

The 35th annual Sturgis Area Crop Walk will take place at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Honorary Co-Chairman Woody Funk, age 93, will be leading the many generations on the walk from the First Baptist Church on Fawn River Road.

Planning this year's route has been a challenge with all the construction on U.S. 12.

But no challenge is too great for walkers in the Sturgis Crop Walk.

It is the longest-running consecutive Crop Walk in Michigan. The Crop Walk raises funds and awareness of the hungry in the world and local community.

"There's so many needs in the world, the funds from this walk go toward that cause locally and worldwide," Earl Arend, a coordinator with the Crop Walk, said.

Last year, \$10,540 was raised for hungry and needy people around the world and here in St. Joseph County. The goal for this year's walkers is \$15,000.

Twenty-five percent of the funds raised will remain in the local community to meet needs.

The 2006 Crop Walk honorary chairpersons are Sturgis Police Sgt. Geoff Smith, and longtime walk participant Funk.

Funk said, "It's good exercise and the fresh air is good for our bodies. We're helping humanity by feeding the poor."

Tom Scheetz is serving as chairman of the local Crop Walk for the fifth year in a row.

Austin Wicks, a high school student walker, said, "I like the walk because it's for such a good cause and while walking I can talk to a lot of 'cool' people that I usually don't have the chance to talk with."

Each year, the walkers have an opportunity to rest at the Salvation Army. This is the half-way point for the walk, where refreshments are served for added energy.

"I enjoy the camaraderie of the walk. It helps the local Salvation Army whose mission is

to help others,” Crop Walk participant Gary Mecklenburg said.

There will be vehicles at the Salvation Army for those who are unable to finish out the walk.

Arend said the Salvation Army has always been gracious to the walkers.

There is still time to sign up to walk on Sunday. Residents from all areas of the county are invited to come out for support.

Arend said people can sign-up at their churches, or get information from another walker.

Walkers can also create their own pledge sheet or call Arend for one at

651-6798.

April weather is often a surprise for walkers. This year the forecast calls for rain, but walkers may not mind: it snowed at last year’s event.



Published April 28, 2006

## **City homeless shelter appeals for help**

### **New Hope can't get HUD funding**

By Stacey Range  
Lansing State Journal

With funding options fast depleting, the Lansing area's largest homeless shelter is again appealing to the community to help keep its doors open this year.

The New Hope Day Center, run by Volunteers of America on North Larch Street, learned this week its appeal of a funding denial from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development was rejected.

Without the help, the center is slated to run out of money at the end of June, said Patrick Patterson, vice president of operations.

"There aren't many places left to turn," he said.

The center's future has been in turmoil for more than a year, after a federal tax change resulted in a reduction in the number of car donations by about 45 percent and a decrease of about \$250,000 in the center's revenue. A similar appeal and fundraisers last year brought in more than \$250,000 from donations, as well as foundation grants and a \$50,000 check from Ingham County.

The rest of the center's \$365,000 operational cost came from the Capital Area United Way and a \$100,000 city grant.

Patterson doesn't know yet how much money will be contributed this year.

He said he was counting on the HUD funding so the center would have a steady stream of funding.

HUD originally denied the funding because the center had never before requested aid and thus was considered a new program.

In addition, HUD agreed to fund only about half of the \$1.3 million requested this year by all local agencies helping the homeless.

The center provides daytime shelter as well as housing resources, clothing vouchers, counseling and other services to more than 100 homeless people daily.

"These programs are critical to the everyday management of people's lives," said Susan Cancro, executive director of Advent House Ministries and chairwoman of the Greater Lansing Homeless Resolution Network.

"If it closes, it will be a real loss to the homeless."

Contact Stacey Range at 377-1157 or [srange@lsj.com](mailto:srange@lsj.com).

#### **How to help**

- Donations may be dropped off or mailed to the New Hope Day Center, 430 N. Larch St., Lansing, MI 48912. For more information, call 484-4414, ext. 100.

# **Hit-and-run accident kills homeless man**

## **Van found abandoned; driver, arrested, may have been drunk**

PUBLISHED: April 28, 2006

By Gordon Wilczynski  
Macomb Daily Staff Writer

Roseville police arrested a 34-year-old Warren man in connection with a hit-and-run fatality Wednesday night on Gratiot Avenue, north of 12 Mile Road.

Police said they would seek a warrant charging the man with leaving the scene of a fatal traffic accident. Police also believe the driver of the hit-and-run van was intoxicated.

The body of a 42-year-old man, believed to be homeless, was found at 10:10 p.m. in the far left lane of northbound Gratiot Avenue at Connecticut Street, in front of the Ram's Horn restaurant. The motorist who found the man pulled his vehicle behind him so that he wouldn't be hit by anyone else.

Officer Matthew Dickey believed that the man was hit by a passing motorist, said Roseville Deputy Police Chief Michael Pachla. Officers flooded the area looking for the hit-and-run vehicle and found it.

Officer Stephan Dzierzawski located a beige Ford minivan parked on Bigelow Street, east of Gratiot. Dzierzawski noticed damage to the front of the unoccupied minivan and that the vehicle's air bags were deployed.

Residents living in the area came out of their homes when they saw police checking out the van. They told police they saw two men get out of the van and walk in opposite directions.

"Our officers located one of the men walking down Bigelow Street and Officer (Brian) Dobrzycki located the driver of the car talking on a phone at a bar on Gratiot and Eastland Street," said Pachla. "Both men were interviewed about the accident and the driver was arrested because it appeared to the officers that he had been drinking."

Bigelow Street is about one-quarter of a mile from the accident scene. Pachla said police believe the driver of the van struck the man and kept on going because he was drunk.

Upon questioning, the Warren man told police he thought someone threw something at his truck.

"There was damage to the front of the truck and the air bags were deployed," said Pachla.

"We still don't know which way the deceased was headed."

Anyone who may have seen the accident or the beige minivan Wednesday night is asked to call Lt. Tom Suminski at (586) 775-2100.

# Elder abuse case moves to circuit court

*By Sally Barber, Cadillac News*

*April 28, 2006*

REED CITY - Estelle Dell'eva died from infection caused by bedsores and gangrene said Dr. David Start, pathologist for Spectrum Health's Blodgett Campus.

Start was the first of three witnesses to testify in the Dennis James Dell'eva case in Osceola County's 77th District Court Thursday. Dell'eva, 52, is charged with Involuntary Manslaughter and Second Degree Vulnerable Adult Abuse. He was bound over to circuit court in connection with the 2004 death of his mother, Estelle Dell'eva.

An autopsy report and **an investigative report by Adult Protective Services** were introduced at Thursday's preliminary exam, establishing the circumstances surrounding the 74-year-old woman's death.

Start told the court Dell'eva weighed 86 pounds at the time of her death. She was malnourished, dehydrated and suffered from bedsores and gangrene of her lower extremities and fingers. The primary cause of death was a bacterial infection within the blood stream caused by the ulcerated bedsores and gangrene, he said. Other medical factors contributing to her death were dehydration, renal failure, and poor circulation due to high cholesterol levels, according to Start.

When asked by the state's Assistant Attorney General David Tanay, what he considered the manner of death, Start replied, "homicide." He said it was his opinion Dell'eva's death resulted from neglect and the inadequate care provided by the deceased's son.

Dell'eva's defense attorney Dennis DuVall questioned Start as to how quickly and to what extent the fatal conditions would have become obvious. Renal failure could come on in a matter of hours or days, he said. He was also unsure of the timing of the bacterial infection and said it could reach a clinically significant degree within a matter of hours or days.

Paramedic for Osceola County Emergency Services Kelby Klassen was questioned as to the conditions he found at the Dell'eva residence when he responded to an emergency call Jan. 19, 2004. He reported the doublewide trailer was cold and dark and described the house as being littered with trash and feces. Estelle Dell'eva was found on the couch buried beneath blankets and trash.

The unresponsive woman was transported to Reed City's Spectrum hospital where she died the next day. The third witness, Deputy Christopher Lockhart of the Osceola County Sheriff Department, recounted his attempts to talk with Estelle Dell'eva at the hospital.

“She was incoherent,” he said. “My attempts to have a conversation were unsuccessful.”

Dell'eva had reported to authorities his mother stopped eating and drinking two days before she was transported to the hospital. It had been four years since she had last received medical care. Lockhart said Dell'eva claimed his mother refused his offers to get her medical care.

Lockhart said Dell'eva told him he had taken care of his mother for the past 30 years.

“He didn't believe she had serious medical problems,” he said.

Dennis Dell'eva was taken into custody at the time of his mother's hospitalization on unrelated charges, Lockhart told the court.

Lockhart also said Dell'eva told authorities he had been cashing his mother's \$565 monthly Social Security checks. It was noted house payments were \$445 monthly.

Duvall asked Lockhart if Dell'eva had power of attorney or anything legally binding him to care for his mother. Lockhart said he didn't know.

**A protective services report** stemming from an Oct. 20, 2003 visit to the Dell'eva residence indicated two social workers did not enter the house, but the report states Estelle Dell'eva refused service.

Duvall asked Lockhart if there are any other state agencies that would come in under the circumstances and force the woman into treatment.

“No, sir,” Lockhart said.

Tanay concluded Dell'eva was aware of his mother's injuries, incontinence and declining mental condition and that her death was a result of his neglect. Also, that while there is no evidence Dennis Dell'eva intended to cause death, Estelle Dell'eva fits the definition of vulnerable adult.

DuVall debated that nothing was entered into evidence showing Dell'eva knew he had a legal duty to care for his mother and that he was acting in accordance to his mother's wishes. He contended the **FIA report** demonstrates Estelle Dell'eva was not a vulnerable adult.

District Court Judge Susan Grant ordered Dell'eva bound over to stand trial.

“He undertook legal duty when he took over her finances,” she said.

“The defendant's mother died as a result of his failing to attend her basic human needs,” Grant said.

Spokesperson for the Attorney General's Office Nate Bailey said the arraignment went as expected.

“This case is an important one to resolve,” he said. “We are happy to proceed to trial.”

The case must answer whether Dell'eva had a legal duty to seek medical care for his mother or whether he was following her wishes, according to DuVall.

“‘Probable cause’ is a long ways from ‘without a reasonable doubt,’ ” he said.

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# Rape case rattles quiet neighborhood

Friday, April 28, 2006

By John Tunison  
The Grand Rapids Press

HOLLAND -- Bruised physically and battered emotionally, an 83-year-old woman raped by an intruder was recovering today as police sought her attacker.

"She is doing amazingly well," her daughter said. "I think it's God's grace."

Thursday's rape stunned the family of the woman, described as active in her church and in good health, as well as residents of her quiet neighborhood and throughout Holland.

"This is scary," said Cheryl Simpson, who lives a few doors away from the victim's home on West 31st Street. "What kind of sicko would do this? They better catch him."

Police said the victim was awakened about 12:50 a.m. by an intruder in her bedroom. After the assault, he fled her duplex, and she called 911.

The attack left the woman with bruises, and police vowed to do everything possible to catch the man. She was treated and released from Holland Hospital.

"We are going to put all our resources in this case and do everything we can," Capt. Rick Walters said. "Police officers and the community are outraged this kind of incident took place."

Robbery did not appear to be a motive because nothing was taken from the home, he said. Police did not find any sign of forced entry, such as a broken lock or window, and were uncertain if her door was left unlocked.

Investigators hoped to collect evidence from the home that can help identify and convict a suspect.

"We did see several items of potential evidence," Walters said.

The victim described her attacker as 25 to 35 years old and about 5-foot-7. He was last seen wearing a dark, hooded sweatshirt. Her daughter said she did not think her mother got a good glimpse of his face.

"It was pitch black and she was in the dead of sleep before this," she said.

Family members were trying to cope with the trauma.



"It's just overwhelming," her daughter said. "It's mind-boggling that someone would do this to your mother."

The woman, a widow, lived in the house for six or seven years, family members said. Neighbors did not hear any disturbance Thursday morning.

Residents, some worried about their safety, hoped for a quick arrest.

"It's upsetting," Thelma Brouwer said. "I hope she is going to be OK."

Bob VerBeek, who lives a few hundred feet from the victim's house, said the neighborhood always has been quiet since he moved there 57 years ago.

"We've never had any problems here," he said.

He said the rape offers a discouraging statement about society.

"It used to be we would go away on a weekend, leave the doors unlocked and come back and find everything fine. Things have changed, sorry to say."

Anyone with information is asked to call Holland Police at 355-1100 or Silent Observer at 392-4443.

**MIRS**  
**April 27, 2006**

## **Unemployment Up In Most Areas Of State**

Unemployment rates from February to March increased slightly in 12 of Michigan's 17 major labor market areas, according to the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG).

Though the Detroit area is holding its 7.6 percent unemployment level, which is down from last March's 7.8 percent unemployment rate, it showed the biggest increase in unemployment from February to March.

In February, the Detroit area had a 7 percent unemployment rate, an 8.6 percent change to this month.

Overall, the change in regional unemployment from February to March wasn't that big, said DLEG Director Rick **WACLAWEK**.

"Regional jobless rate increases in March were very minor, with an average advance of only .2 of a percentage point," Wacławek said. "The only discernable movement in March occurred in the Detroit metro area, with a .6 percentage point jobless rate increase."

Unemployment in Flint (8.9 percent) and Saginaw (8.4 percent) almost hit 9 percent this month with the Upper Peninsula showing exactly 9 percent unemployment and Northeast Lower Michigan having an 11.7 percent unemployment rate.

Areas with the lowest unemployment rates include Ann Arbor (4.7 percent), Holland (5.6 percent) and Grand Rapids (6.2 percent).

Michigan Report

April 27, 2006

## **REGIONAL JOBLESS RATES INCREASE IN MOST AREAS**

March seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates increased in 12 of the state's 17 labor markets over February, the Department of Labor and Economic Growth said, but unemployment also went down in two areas.

The overall state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March went up as the workforce increased.

Most of the increases ranged in the .2 percentage points level, according to the department. The biggest jump recorded was in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia region where unemployment went from 7 percent in February to 7.6 percent in March. It still remained below the 7.8 percent rate of March 2005.

Unemployment was unchanged from February in three areas: Holland-Grand Haven at 5.6 percent, Kalamazoo-Portage at 6 percent, and Lansing-East Lansing at 6.3 percent.

And it decreased in two areas compared to February: in Monroe it went from 6.7 percent to 6.6 percent and in the Niles-Benton Harbor area joblessness went from 7.5 percent to 7.4 percent.

The lowest jobless rate remains the Ann Arbor area, which in March went to 4.7 percent from 4.5 percent in February.

The highest unemployment rate stood at 11.7 percent in Northeast Lower Michigan, up from 11.3 percent in February.

Among the counties, Washtenaw County had the lowest jobless rate at 4.7 percent while Mackinac County had the highest rate of 21.1 percent. Wayne County, the state's largest county, had a March unemployment rate of 8.7 percent.

## **Ludington Daily News**

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Posted: 4-28-2006

### **Former cop guilty in domestic violence case**

MANISTEE — A jury found former Manistee Police Sgt. Matthew Thompson guilty of domestic violence Thursday and sentenced him to a year of probation.

The trial in Manistee County's 85th District Court followed Thompson's arrest on the charge in January. The incident occurred at his home while he was off duty.

Thompson had been on unpaid administrative leave following his arrest, and Manistee Police Chief Dave Bachman said this morning that Thompson resigned a few weeks ago and is no longer a member of the department.

In addition to probation, Thompson was ordered to pay fines and costs totaling \$820. He was also ordered to receive anger management counseling and treatment for alcohol abuse, as required by his probation officer.

The Michigan State Police investigated the incident.

# **Child-care costs continue to climb for county**

Friday, April 28, 2006

By Steve Gunn

MUSKEGON CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Muskegon County's Child Care Fund has become an unpredictable wild card for county budget officials.

Just when they think they have their balance sheets under control, new expenses in the child care column will create havoc with the bottom line.

Last year, costs went up when 14 juvenile runaways were brought home to Muskegon County and their placement and treatment costs were partially charged to the Child Care Fund. This year, a federal audit has resulted in the transfer of 33 children from a federal/state fund to a combined state/county fund.

That means the county now expects to spend about \$3.8 million on its child care fund this year, rather than the anticipated \$2.9 million.

The extra expense is the main reason the county's projected general fund deficit for fiscal 2006 has jumped from an estimated \$356,387 to an estimated \$600,837. The fiscal year runs through Sept. 30.

Through the Child Care Fund, the county helps pay the expenses of delinquent or abused children who are taken out of their homes and placed in residential or foster care.

The current challenge for the fund comes from a recent federal audit.

Kids whose families receive social service benefits qualify for federal/state funding. The rest are funded by the state and county.

Thirty-three kids from Muskegon County previously had their expenses covered by the federal/state fund, but the audit showed they should be funded by the state/local program.

Meanwhile, the overall cost of providing kids with foster care placement or residential treatment continues to go up, resulting in higher costs, county officials said.

County officials meet with family court and department of human services officials on a regular basis, to review child care cases and try to keep costs down. But there is only so much the county can do, according to Jack Niemiec, the county's director of finance and management services.

"They tell us the number of kids coming through and the type of treatment they need," Niemiec said. "We can try to place spending restrictions on them, but when they make a placement, we've got to pay it."

The new deficit projection threatens to end a period of relative calm in the county budget process.

This year's original deficit projection, \$356,387, is also the amount of money the county will give the Muskegon Area District Library, formerly the Muskegon County Library, to help it get started as an independent entity.

The plan was to cover the one-time gift with money from the budget stabilization fund. The new projected deficit can also be covered from that fund, which currently has a balance of about \$2 million. But officials are hoping they won't have to take \$600,873 out of the budget stabilization fund to balance their books at the end of the fiscal year.

"Just like every year, we'll continue to work at (child care expenses)," said Beth Dick, the county's budget manager. "If we can't get that down, we'll look for other areas of the budget where we can save. If we can just get back (to the original deficit projection), we'd be happy."

Another threat looms on the horizon, according to officials. The Brookhaven Medical Care Facility is on course to ring up a six- or seven-figure deficit in the current fiscal year, which will more than wipe out its fund reserve.

That means some of Brookhaven's losses could be charged to the county's general fund, unless new revenue, expected to come through a change in the nursing home "provider tax," provides sorely-needed dollars for Brookhaven, Dick said.

Friday, April 28, 2006

## **Teen sues mom in bid to ID dad Metro area 17-year-old finds man who raised him isn't biological dad; they unite to seek genetic history.**

**Steve Pardo and Christina Stolarz / The Detroit News**

**MOUNT CLEMENS** -- A 17-year-old is suing his mother in Macomb County Circuit Court to force her to reveal the identity of his biological father.

Two years ago, the teen -- identified as "Minor J" in court filings -- learned that the man who helped raise him wasn't his real father. Now, with help from that man, who is his legal father, he's involved in a lawsuit that could help determine what rights children have to know the identity of their parents.

The case centers on the teenager's desire to know his family genetic history for health purposes, said Henry Baskin, a prominent Birmingham attorney who represents Minor J.

The mother, who lives in Fraser and is identified as Diane J., "owes her son this information," said Baskin, who acknowledged that he could find no legal precedent that would compel her to provide the information.

"I've checked all over the county and I can't find anything," he said.

The boy's mother could not be reached for comment and apparently is not yet represented by an attorney.

J. Michael Kelly, a prominent Santa Monica., Calif., family law attorney and a University of Southern California professional, said he believes the son has a right to sue to find out who his father is.

"It's an overriding right," Kelly said. "It would be extraordinarily selfish for the mother not to disclose. A human's desire to know who their parents are and where they came from is crucial. He can't say, 'this is my grandfather, this is my grandmother.' He has no history."

Baskin said the case is not going to be about child support.

"It's 'Who's my daddy?' It's unfair to everyone not to know genetically what's going on. It's either going to be a case that will set precedent or it will lead to some legislation if I can't sustain the case."

Diane J. and her former husband were divorced in 1995. The couple was married at the time Minor J. was conceived in 1988, Baskin said.

In 2004, the husband began to have doubts that the teen was his biological child, Baskin said. After the divorce, Minor J. split his time between his mother's home and her former husband's home in Oakland County. And he still does.

"The father, who loves this person by the way and is very much in his life, just for some reason thought, 'Geez, there's something genetically " incorrect.'

In April 2004, the family was tested. Two separate DNA tests dispelled any possibility that the man was his father, according to the lawsuit.

The teen asked his mother for the identity of his father. According to the lawsuit, his mother gave another name -- referred to as "Mr. X" in the lawsuit.

Three months later, another DNA test revealed Mr. X wasn't the father, either.

It was then that the mother refused to reveal the identity of the biological father.

"It's unfair to everyone not to know genetically what's going on," Baskin said. "If you were in your teens and want to go to college, get married and have a baby, wouldn't you like to know your family medical history before you have a child?"

Baskin points out that even donor and adoption agencies require a medical history of both parents in an effort to ensure a healthy lifestyle for the child.

"It is imperative to know his predisposition to disease," he said.

"How important the family history is depends on what's in the family history," said Dr. Alan Guttmacher, deputy director of the National Human Genome Research Institute. The institute is part of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. "It's very useful for everyone to know their family history to the greatest degree possible. If you have good (information), it can alert you to specific disorders."

That medical background can help someone make better lifestyle choices, such as early medical screenings, diet and exercise, he said.

The worst-case scenario is for someone to unknowingly be at risk for a particular disease they wouldn't normally think about unless it's in the family medical history, he said.

In addition, the biological father could be compelled to pay support. But the clock is ticking. A child can sue for support from his biological parent when he's a minor up until a year after reaching adulthood. So the teenager has until Jan. 25, 2008 -- his 19th birthday -- to find his biological father. Baskin said he served the woman with the lawsuit on Wednesday and hopes to take her deposition within two weeks to find the father.

"I need to get that information and the information wasn't forthcoming," he said.

*You can reach Steve Pardo at (586) 468-3614 or [spardo@detnews.com](mailto:spardo@detnews.com).*



# Teen admits escape

Friday, April 28, 2006

The Grand Rapids Press

GRAND RAPIDS --

A juvenile who fled the custody of a Kent County sheriff's deputy in March pleaded guilty Thursday to attempted escape of a juvenile facility. Nestor Lopez, 16, will be sentenced as a juvenile but will receive an adult sentence, up to two years in prison, if he violates court requirements. Police say Lopez, along with Marriah Lee Rose, 15, and Sandra Bravo, 12, escaped after a transfer van arrived at the Juvenile Detention Center, 1501 Cedar St. NE. Lopez, in handcuffs and a chain around his waist, ran. The girls, handcuffed, ran when the deputy chased him, police said. The girls are being treated as juveniles.

# **Judge sentences couple who claimed to be hurricane victims**

Friday, April 28, 2006

By TIM YOUNKMAN  
BAY CITY TIMES WRITER

A Bay City couple has been sentenced in Bay County Circuit Court after they scammed a number of local charities claiming to be Hurricane Katrina victims.

Catherine L. Hubler, 44, and her husband, Terry A. Grumbley, 50, had pleaded guilty earlier to the scam in which they claimed to have been living in Louisiana when the storm hit and were forced to move back to Michigan because of the disaster.

They had claimed to be homeless and in need of all kinds of assistance from various agencies including the American Red Cross East Michigan Shoreline chapter in Bay City.

Circuit Judge William J. Caprathe sentenced Hubler to one year in jail on the misdemeanor charge of obtaining up to \$1,000 under false pretenses. He also sentenced her to 32 months to four years in prison for violation of parole from an earlier conviction. The sentences are to be served concurrently.

Grumbley, who pleaded guilty to obtaining between \$1,000 and \$20,000 through false pretenses, was placed on two years probation. The two also were told to make restitution.

Police said the two, posing as refugees, obtained help from Created For Caring, the Red Cross, St. Vincent de Paul Society, The Salvation Army, St. Stanislaus Catholic Church and Mid-Michigan Community Action Alliance.

Hubler later told police she used money obtained from a Red Cross debit card to buy crack cocaine.

Items given to the pair included backpacks, bicycles, a television set, a microwave oven and vouchers for food and other gifts.

Hubler also told police that they had been in Bay City at the time of the hurricane and did not reside in Louisiana.

- Tim Younkman covers area police agencies and courts for The Times. He can be contacted at 894-9652, or by e-mail at [tyounkman@bc-times.com](mailto:tyounkman@bc-times.com).



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING



MARIANNE UDOW  
DIRECTOR

## News Release

**Contact: Stepheni Schlinker or Maureen Sorbet (517) 373-7394**

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### **Judy Samelson appointed chief executive officer of Early Childhood Investment Corporation**

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**April 28, 2006**

LANSING - The Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) Executive Committee today announced the appointment of Judy Samelson as chief executive officer for the ECIC, effective May 1. The ECIC is a non-profit public corporation focused on coordinating and expanding programs, services, and supports for all children from birth to age five. As part of its role, the ECIC oversees development and implementation of the Great Start System - a community-based system focusing on early childhood development and care.

As CEO of the corporation, Samelson will have a broad range of duties. She will advise the ECIC executive committee, develop its strategic plan, focus on fund development to expand resources supporting ECIC programs, manage its relationships with political representatives, local governmental entities, private sector and community service providers, the educational community and private citizens, and generate public support for early childhood programs.

A Flint resident, Samelson has more than two decades' experience in advocacy and local community building. She was founder of Flint-based Advocacy In Action since 2005, a nonprofit organization that provides training and technical assistance in advocacy. She was founding executive director of Washington, D.C.-based Afterschool Alliance from 2002-04. There she helped establish after school programming as a national issue and created a clearinghouse of research and information.

She was with Flint's C.S. Mott Foundation, a philanthropic organization, from 1983-2002. From 1983-1998 she served as vice president and director of communications. She was a consultant there from 1998-2001. She was an editor and reporter for The Flint Journal from 1973-83. Samelson holds bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism from Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant.

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm announced the creation of the ECIC in her 2005 State of the State address. The ECIC operates in both the public and private sectors to help all Michigan families provide a great start for their children from birth to age five. ECIC goals are: to provide a focal point in state government for the developing Michigan's Great Start system; to serve as a clearinghouse of information, resources and technical assistance for early childhood system-building efforts; and to partner with and support local communities through Great Start Collaboratives.

**For more information about the ECIC visit the Great Start Web site at [www.greatstartforkids.org](http://www.greatstartforkids.org)**